AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, amend the title as follows:

~~ARCHITECTURAL BASIS~~ <u>METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE</u> BRIDGING OF SAN AND LAN INFRASTRUCTURES

On pages 6-7, amend paragraph [0018] as follows:

[0018]   In the disclosed embodiment, the Router Node 10 is responsible for ensuring that the data from a Remote Client 80 connection gets consistently routed to the appropriate Cluster Node 20. The main purpose of Router Node 10, in acting as a bridge between the Remote Client 80 and a Cluster Node 20, is to handle the TCP/IP processing and protocol conversions between the Remote Client 80 and the Cluster Nodes 20. This separation of labor between Router Node 10 and Cluster Node 20 reduces processing overhead and the limitation otherwise associated with Ethernet rates. ~~Furhter~~ <u>Further,</u> the Router Node can be optimized in such a manner as to process its protocol conversions in the most efficient manner possible. In the same manner Cluster Nodes 20 can be optimized to perform its functions as efficiently as possible. In operation, the Router Node 10 probes the header field of incoming and outgoing packets to establish a unique connection between a remote client and a SAN Cluster Node 20. In the disclosed embodiment the set of Cluster Nodes 20 are viewed by Remote Clients 80 as a single IP address. This architecture allows the addition of one or more Cluster Nodes 20 in a manner that is transparent to the remote world. It is also contemplated that multiple IP addresses could be used to identify the set of Cluster Nodes 20, and which would allow the reservation of a few addresses for dedicated virtual pipes with a negotiated quality of service.